

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island



August 20, 2004



Felon is sentenced to three years in federal prison for possessing a gun

A federal judge has sentenced **Sigismund Dantzler**, of Providence, to 37 months in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. A Providence patrol officer arrested Dantzler in June 2003 after hearing gunshots and observing him toss a handgun under his car.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres imposed yesterday in U.S. District Court, Providence. Dantzler, 20, of 821 Atwells Avenue, has prior state convictions for drug trafficking and firearms offenses, and, as a felon, is prohibited from possessing firearms.

At a hearing in May at which Dantzler pleaded guilty, Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard W. Rose said that the government had proof that, early in the morning of June 22, 2003, Dantzler tossed a .357 caliber revolver under his car after it was followed by a Providence Police cruiser.

At about 1:35 AM, a patrol officer heard three gun shots in the area of Chalkstone and Mount Pleasant Avenues. The officer began to check the area and saw a four-door sedan traveling without its headlights on. The police officer followed the car in his cruiser until it stopped on Hendricks Street. As the officer approached the vehicle, he saw the driver toss an

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object under the car. The officer detained the driver, later identified as Dantzler, and retrieved a .357 revolver from under the car. The revolver had three live rounds and three spent cartridges.

Providence Police and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Rose prosecuted it as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, ATF, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and have resulted in lengthy prison terms for gun offenders.

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